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BALL 13 APRIL

FREE THE NEWSPAPER OF THE A.N.U. STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION APRIL, 1962

50 Megatons for Capital development OUR OWN ATOM BOMB BLAST SOON?

Nasty rumours have been spreading about the mysterious tower recently constructed atop Black Mountain. Our anonymous news source suggests that any similarity between said tower and similar structures at Nevada Atomic Testing Grounds is not coincidental.

Information as to the reason for this similarity has given rise to some serious thought, amongst staid Canberra citizens who are usually content to let their bridges sink gracefully into the mire while their public buildings collapse around them and the theory of responsible government runs riot in their midst. Not that we wish to suggest that any excitement has yet arisen and it might be noted that a reasonable proportion of the thinkers lost interest after realising that the thing is closer to the University than it is to them.

Bearing this in mind it would seem only right to give the matter some close consideration, preferably before the sound of sirens is heard and the Ministerial planes are seen heading in the direction of Darwin.

Firstly, we realise that excavations must be made for the lakes scheme; but let us keep this thing in reasonable perspective.

Mud flats

If the mountain is removed the resultant crater will prove an undoubted tourist attraction as an extra spectacular lake bowl, but the amount of dust that is sure to be spread liberally around the surroundings is likely to increase the present flow of mud from a conservative 6,000 tons per flood to astronomical proportions, the end result of which will merely be a Pioneer Tour From Queanbeyan to Yarralumla across the mud flats.

The need for boosting private enterprise is certainly apparent, but should it go this far?

An optimistic department that has ordered dredges for the existing scheme may feel adequate to coping with such further demands on its ingenuity, but the 50 dredges disguised as showboats floating innocently across the sound desperately endeavouring to maintain order, necessary under an increased scheme, are hardly feasible.

Despite Federal faith, innocence is not likely to stand the test.

Abandoning this possibility the second assumption, instantly apparent for an almighty blast in our midst is that some admittance of the amount of criticism awarded Canberra on the national stage has been made by the powers that be, and steps are being taken to rectify mistakes. But surely there is a more realistic approach to be taken other than burying the place? Even though no one has so far managed to present an alternative there must be one.

The monster

Failing an alternative, if the project is carried out successfully, leaving a National Crater in place of the National Capital, we are prepared to admit that the whole thing will be greeted in most quarters as a great service to the country. But before local support is given to such a plan it is thought desirable to have the evacuation plans released at once.

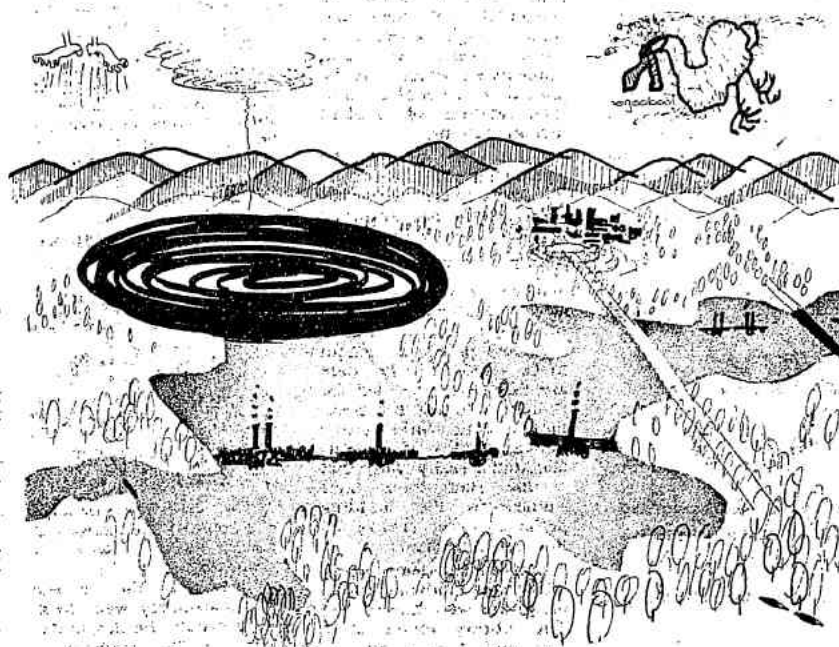
Definite statements have been attributed to reputable persons to the effect that the structure will be operable by June, in which case something must be done very soon in an attempt to slow progress down.

If the National Capital Development Commission subscribes to the former view then something should certainly be done before September at the latest.

As it is so obvious that action must be taken before the construction is completed to a state of readiness moves are in hand to allow the team of scientists recently returned from their delicate task of dissection of the Tasmanian Monster to carry out a primary investigation of the structure in the same manner.

Bearing in mind the construction record of Civil and Civic laying into the thing with axes should at least give everybody a breathing space.

(Continued on page 4)



Metrecal for Castro's penchant

IF the A.L.P. Club were to share Fidel Castro's penchant for naming years, such as the Year of Education, this would surely be the Club's Year of Expansion.

This expansion has been both in the number of club members and in the activities planned for the year. Right from the outset the club has pursued a vigorous schedule of meetings, designed to increase political consciousness within the University.

The organisation of the West New Guinea discussion, in which Dr. Feith, Dr. Hindley and Mr. Waters participated, was handled primarily by the club. Later on in Orientation Week, the club held a function in the evening, the object of which was to encourage and meet new members. In this regard the club has met with a considerable measure of success as the membership now stands at 75, a figure which should increase within a month or so to over 100.

The first political meeting for this year, actually held under the aegis of the A.L.P. Club was the address in the second week of term by Dr. Ric Shand on "The Cuban Revolution". The meeting was well attended, considering that it unfortunately clashed with a compulsory meeting at Bruce Hall. Dr. Shand, who visited Cuba in 1960, was

able to give a good, overall picture of social conditions on the island before and after the Revolution. Although he was not so conversant with conditions at the moment, because his only information is that which he can glean from the capitalist Press, he was able to disprove the American contention that the Revolution, and Castro in particular, had from the initial stages been Communist inspired.

Last Thursday, 22nd March, the Third Annual General Meeting of the A.L.P. Club was held. The chair was occupied by the President, Vic Gleeson, who declared open the meeting, which was attended by an interested, though somewhat smallish, group of members. The President's Report, which contained a summary of the club's activities last year, was well received and unanimously approved. The Treasurer's Report, too, met with an equally smooth passage by virtue of the excellent management of club finances by incumbent Treasurer, Keith Campbell.

The meeting then dealt with the matter of constitutional

amendments. The old Constitution provided for a committee of four. This was drawn up when the actual membership was about ten. Today, with a fast-increasing membership of 75, compared to last year's final figure of 33, the need was felt of a corresponding increase in the size of the committee to allow it to carry out more efficiently the many tasks it has taken on. Thus the size of the committee was increased to ten. The election of office-bearers for 1962, then followed, the results of which were: President, Tony Whitlam; Vice-President, Vic Gleeson; Sec., Kim Gollan; Treasurer, Keith Campbell; and other members, Ian Wilson, Param Singh, Chris Higgins, Peter Lonsdale, Noel Pratt and Billie Ryan.

The general business of the meeting produced ideas such as the possibility of smaller discussion groups and study weekends. These ideas were welcomed, as they will provide members with benefits not available to non-member students. In addition, there was some talk of the possibility of the A.L.P. Club organising a Student Action group, similar to that in Melbourne, but this has been postponed to a latter general meeting. The meeting closed after the new President had moved a vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation, to his predecessor Vic Gleeson, for his magnificent representations on behalf of the club.

S.R.C. ELECTION —
APRIL 16, 17, 18
A.G.M. OF THE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION —
MAY 2

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Bob Smith, Alistair Davidson, Paul Pentony, Neil McPherson, Don Brewster, Heather Sutherland, Michael Harrington, Don Anderson, John Woodrow, Michael Sawyer, Tony Whitlam, Gwilym Davies, Barbara Wilson, Keith Campbell, John Dent, Madeleine Penman and Sav Harasymiv.

AND ALL THEY DID WAS TALK AND TALK AND . . .

One of the debating society's most successful functions to date was held on Wednesday, March 21 in the tank with a debate "That the Concept of God has Outlived its Purpose."

Though the topic as it stands is an interesting and quite worthy of full debate, it was almost inevitable that the issue should change during the evening to the hackneyed struggle between religion and atheism.

Mr. Davidson, however, did his best to avoid that end by asserting that the Government was not concerned with the existence or otherwise of God, but to show that He was no longer necessary to man. At this point of peremptory dismissal of the Almighty by a student, a profound and inexplicable gloom settled on this particular agnostic, but I stayed to hear Mr. Davidson further.

He proceeded to speak of the progress of science and the consequent elimination of God from scientific causal explanations, and of the growth of scientific historical studies and a similar encroachment of the mind of man on what had hitherto been God's territory.

The lack of originality in the arguments it was Mr. Davidson's task to present, should not have prevented him from delivering them more forcefully. A quiet speaker can be a telling speaker—witness Mr. Jardine—but an inaudible speaker never makes any impression.

Mr. Davidson's attempt to keep the debate, to the straight and narrow was unfortunately thwarted by the next speaker, Father McKenna, who shares the fault of all convinced Christians and of priests in particular. He spoke as if he were delivering a sermon. This manner—quite an effective one—could have been put to good use had it not been for the fact that his matter also resembled that of a sermon.

The monarchy

The unfortunate result of this, and one which people of his calling never seem to realise when addressing a secular gathering, is that it immediately divides the audience into those who accept the basic premises accepted (and never justified) by the speaker and who do not need convincing anyway, and those who disagree with the speaker's basic premises and therefore dismiss the rest of the speech as invalid.

Having extricated himself from a precarious position in illustrating his argument by analogy with the English monarchy, Mr. Campbell proceeded to invalidate the moral usefulness of God in to-day's world. He showed

Speaking for the Government were Alistair Davidson, Keith Campbell and Dr. Bradley of the Philosophy department.

The Opposition members were Father McKenna, an unexpected Gwilym Davies and Brian Jardine, a student at the Institute.

the so-called divine edicts had been interpreted in different ways to suit the diverse purposes of men. Mr. Campbell's arguments were good and he delivered them well, especially in conclusion.

Mr. Davies set the seal on the debate's fate by challenging the Government to prove that God did not exist. Without such proof, he said, all their arguments were invalid. Science had indeed answered the questions of "how" about the physical world, it had not answered the question of "why." Until it had done that God remained, an answer to the "why" question, and as such continued to fill a useful function.

Dr. Bradley shared to a certain extent in the fault of Father McKenna by aiming for the responsive chord in his audience which he assumed rather than manufactured as a debater. He devoted most of his time to dealing, in philosophic terms, with the arguments of the Opposition, particularly those involving the existence, or otherwise of the Deity. In so doing he ignored, more than any of the speakers before him, the real topic of the debate.

Brian Jardine, true to his Sydney origins, debated quietly but very effectively, with witty, telling remarks dropped at regular intervals. He dealt very creditably with the apparently formidable case of the Government and asserted that theology remained a legitimate study.

Professor Clarke chaired the debate in his usual pithy style. No one from the audience embarrassed their fellows by unintelligent questions. It was in all ways a success and a credit to its organisers, particularly as it provided the under-grads with conversational meat for at least 36 hours.

NEIL McPHERSON.

Legal egales lay egg balls and bills apparent . . .

As is customary, the Annual General Meeting of the Law Society was the best attended meeting of its kind this year.

Peter Ryan, in the chair, ably conducted the first half of the meeting despite learned objections from some of those people, who conscientiously object to anything being said without their having anything to do with it.

The President's Report was well received and although the extent of expansion of the Law Society's activities was questioned, it was generally conceded that the year had been an active and fruitful one. The committee's action in organising the inaugural Annual Law Dinner was

commended and it is to be hoped that this most suitably dignified function can be improved from year to year.

The Law Ball was also mentioned in the Report and it should be pointed out that the main criticism of it centred upon the inadequate space available in the Carlton Lounge for this most popular event. This year it appears that a venue with more room will be sought.

Rather different was the reception accorded the Treasurer's financial statement which disclosed, inaccurately, accountancy and gross neglect of ordinary auditing procedure. This year's Treasurer should bear in mind the

points made in regard to the presentation of such a statement. However, the mistakes though obvious were technical and revealed a healthy financial year in 1961.

A new sphere of activity was added last year in the participation of two students from the A.N.U. Law Faculty in the Inter-Varsity Moots held in Adelaide during the May vacation. Both participants learned a lot and enjoyed themselves immensely from the legal and social point of view. This year the Moots will be held in Sydney and keen competition is expected for the honour of representing A.N.U. against other Universities.

The annual elections were held and a very promising committee emerged from very strong nominations. As President we now have Alf Pearce, Lance Murray as Vice-President, Dave Findlay as Secretary, Terry Higgins as Treasurer and Ken Johnston, Pauline Armstrong and Tony Whitlam as committee members.

The new committee has already commenced activities and notice is given that a Wolsled Dance may be held at Maguire's on April 7. Confirmation of this and further details will be posted on the notice-board in the near future.

Twenty-odd hopes

The Annual General Meeting of the A.N.U. Theatre Group was held in the Common Room, Childers Street, at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday, March 15. Twenty-odd people were present, and after approval of minutes, treasurer's report and constitutional changes, office-bearers were elected. The 1962 Committee will consist of a president, Miss Stella Ford, a secretary, Miss Anne Kingston, and a treasurer, Mr. Ron Fraser. Another two members will be co-opted at various stages during the year.

The Group intends to enter a one-act play in the Under 18 section of the Australian National Eisteddfod to be held at the end of April. Mr. Julian Hartley will produce

the play, which has yet to be decided upon, and any student interested in this production should contact a member of the committee. Backstage helpers are not required to be under 18 and any volunteers would be particularly welcome.

The future for the Theatre Group looks bright with the promise of co-operation from the newly formed A.N.U. Dramatic Society. The Society draws its membership from the whole University (i.e., S.G.S. and I.A.S.) and proposes to conduct various activities throughout the year in which the Theatre Group will participate. Anyone interested further in this Society or the Theatre Group should approach any of the above members of the committee.

BARRICADES BARRED POLICE TEETH ONLY SMILES, HANDSHAKES POOR PROTEST

LAST October in the notoriously conservative State of Victoria, a virile Students Action Group was formed. Its unifying policy was one of expressing protest against the White Australia policy.

Whether this was right or wrong I am not going to say, but at least it drew people's attention to considering such vital issues as the White Australia policy.

Personally I regard it as one of the duties of university students to

arouse public opinion and perhaps protest about political issues.

Bearing in mind the activity of students in other universities, particularly last October, I cannot help being downhearted by last month's incident when Mr. Menzies visited Bruce Hall. It is hard to decide whether it was a demonstration or a warm-hearted welcome.

However prior to the occasion I was under the impression that it would be a demonstration putting forward a firm and decisive protest, and indeed when one remembers special

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

items such as the barricade it seems that there were the inklings of a demonstration.

But when one remembers also the nature of the barricade and a certain laudatory song, it appears that it was a back-slapping get-together in an English public school manner.

My view is that if one is going to hold a demonstration, it must be done with conviction and in all seriousness, or not at all. Last

month this formulation should have applied.

If it was decided to be held, students should be adequately informed and some thought given to a more powerful approach. Students elsewhere must be amused at the A.N.U.'s new interpretation of student demonstrations.

I can only come to the conclusion that the majority of students are very contented or not informed of any controversial issues

in our society. It is not an excuse to say that there are no issues of enquiry and perhaps reform in our society. Student Action made up of students from almost all of the regular university societies, did demonstrate that there are controversial issues worthy of enquiry and perhaps reform.

I am not advocating the more militant activity of Student Action in Canberra but of a more positive approach by students to such issues, and in deciding to demonstrate if the opportunity is offered, or if a crisis is reached.

PACIFIST.

WHY NOT BE LACKING IN VENOM LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

THE School of General Studies is mainly identifiable by its characterless buildings and the prevailing mood of conformity—ridden, terrified mediocrity.

The total of the average undergraduate's ambition is to avoid offending anyone at all at any time, in any place, in any way.

No, no NOT 'Mencius'!



AT LEAST YOU MIGHT HAVE RECOGNISED MY WIFE: The authorities at Bruce Hall (a small, friendly island off the coast of a large non-existent hostile land mass) were recently thrilled to have the opportunity to entertain the Prime Minister at afternoon tea (see above). Before entering the portals Mr. Menzies thrilled the crowd of smiling undergraduate non-voters with a brief off-the-cuff speech. Sighting a slogan reading Ban Student Demonstrations, he quipped, "I couldn't agree more."

Any sacrifice of character, independence, eccentricity or the right to be different is justified on the grounds of escaping notice and comment, while any action or thought which might bring actual criticism must be avoided like the plague.

Here the dominating attitude is that we must conform to the standards of the society in which we happen to live. Here there is a total absence of any feeling of arrogance and confident criticism of society, no feeling of being above the mass of the population.

We want only to apologise for anything we might possibly do to offend and vanish, chameleon-like, into the texture and pattern of orthodox behaviour and beliefs.

Even so it is not thought which is lacking here — it is emotion, we feel very little about anything. Passion can have only one possible meaning, and there would be widespread embarrassment if a rumour should go around that someone became emotional or excited over an idea or theory.

There is no point in mentioning apathy here any more — it has become a cliché and a standing joke — but it is still the most vital force in this dynamic university.

SHAMMAH.

Reader Suggests Authorities PUT 'EM BACK

The University authorities should be congratulated on their forethought in providing a separate library for students of

Science, Psychology, Applied Mathematics and Philosophy of Science.

A few problems remain to be solved. Firstly, there are SIX seats provided for students and SIX for members of staff. While we like to see equality of students and staff I really think that as the staff have their studies in the building perhaps some change in this could be made.

Part-time students, especially those studying Psychology are well catered for. The library closes at 9 p.m. and if you have reserved books for psychology reports then you have to travel between Childers Street and the Physics Building.

How convenient it must be for staff, but such consideration is without precedent in this University.

CAN'T STAND IT.



Honestly, I don't know HOW I got on the S.R.C.

RELIGION REACHES DAZZLING HEIGHTS

ONE thing that new students will find when they come to the A.N.U. is that Religion is not a thing which you think about only on Sunday but an actively debated topic. They will also find that religious societies are in operation and most students will be urged to join at least one of them.

The NEWMAN SOCIETY is the Roman Catholic Group and caters mostly for Catholics. It organises study groups on the writings of the Church Fathers and holds Mass at regular times.

Besides this the Roman Catholic Chaplain also conducts study groups for "all thinking people". While the objects of these groups may be good it must be remembered that the Catholic viewpoint is given by very able men

and the majority of the opposition by atheists.

The EVANGELICAL UNION is a very new group formed mainly of Protestants of what has been termed the "low church". The rules of the group are very rigid. E.U. has a DOCTRINAL BASIS and no person can be a committee member of E.U. nor can any activity of discussion take place unless it is in accord with this basis.

The Doctrinal basis states: The A.N.U. E.U. upholds all the fundamental truths of Christianity, including—

The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given; the universal sinfulness of man since the fall; redemption only through the Sacrificial Death of Christ; and the

Personal return of Christ at the last day.

Such views as these make E.U. abhorrent to many Protestants who believe in a much more liberal attitude. Tales like Jonah and the Whale are swallowed by E.U. not as great stories of an ancient people searching for God but as historical fact.

The amazing thing is that E.U. should prosper at a university. Here we are in a place where we seek for truth, and where it is lawful to doubt. Here we are encouraged to think for ourselves, yet E.U. would have us close our minds to new ideas. This is, to say the least, a very unacademic thing to do.

The STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT represents the liberal Protestant view. A member of S.C.M. is encouraged to

P. Pentony again panteth plaintively

THIS year, for the first time, the Science Faculty boasts its own library. This development will be of great advantage to the staff of the Departments of Physics, Psychology and Geology, who now do not have to leave the Physics building to go to the Library. It is also advantageous to those devotedly apathetic science students who consider that the University consists of lecture rooms, the Library and Bruce Hall.

Admittedly this achievement has its disadvantages — apart from providing 12 seats for more than 160 science students; apart from the fact that it is badly lit, has no stands for bags or coats, that its twelve seats are placed around two tables, that its catalogue is tucked neatly out of sight and that it is open for considerably shorter hours than Childers Street section of the library, there is the small point that there are a considerable number of students who have no lectures in the physics buildings but must walk the length of University Avenue to the library (e.g. Maths, Philosophy, Botany students).

However, these slight inconveniences should be seen in proper perspective. Admittedly science students have a very long walk in front of them if they want afternoon tea — but there is a Staff Common Room near the science library and anyway students normally spend far too much time in the Common Room and it is a good thing that this is being discouraged.

Admittedly the science library is a good walk from Childers Street, or even the Arts building, but students need exercise, besides which it is easier for student to get from one place to another than it is for staff, as quite a number of students have their own cars.

Onward insularity

The science library is perhaps a trifle crowded but it must be remembered that since it is so out of the way very few students actually use it. Admittedly it does not appear reasonable that some Philosophy and Mathematics books are in the science library while the rest are at Childers Street, but not everything can be perfect.

Also it must be remembered that "soon" all the science departments will be grouped together so the problem faced by this year's Chemistry, Zoology and Botany second and third year students will no longer exist—they won't be here then, but so what?

Finally let us consider the great advantages of this system as a booster to the insularity of science students and to student apathy in general. Ever since the Science Faculty started in this University (1954) the science departments have been isolated from the rest of the University, and as a result science students have been able to keep very much to themselves, thus contributing to the worthy cause of Student Apathy.

However, until this year the system had one big fault, science students had to come to Childers Street to use the Library, thus coming dangerously close to the Students' Common Room and all it represents.

Now that the science library is safely out of the way this danger no longer exists and science students have been given the chance to be a truly isolated group. As far as can be seen this has been completely successful — science students appear to be more apathetic than ever before.

NIGHT FOOD

The S.R.C. is taking steps to have THE BUTTERY OPENED AT NIGHT — MONDAY to THURSDAY from 8.45 to 9.15.

We would like to know, genuinely, how many people would use this service.

The S.R.C. will finance the project and may pay students to do the work if they can guarantee to be reliable. Notices will be put up on the notice boards calling for applications — so any students should watch this as a way of making some money.

S.R.C. ELECTIONS

Nominations are hereby called for the election of the Students' Representative Council

The positions on the Council are for—
PRESIDENT and FACULTY MEMBERS
Any student may stand for election, but he or she must be nominated by persons eligible to vote for the position.

The election dates are —
APRIL 16, 17 and 18

D. A. BREWSTER.

How the owl grew a big belly

ONCE upon a time when fairies were more common than they are now, there was a country just across the border from the Land of Fairies and people called it Birdland — after its many inhabitants.

Now, everything in Birdland was lovely — the beds were soft and downy, the food or "grub" as they say in the vernacular, was of the highest quality, and everybirdy was nice to everybirdy else.

And it so happened one perfectly splendid Saturday afternoon just as some pure white clouds with marshmallow tint floated breathlessly across the blue fields of heaven, and gentle sunbeams kissed the bulging beaks of birds, so tiny, soft-voiced, young and gay — that the Right Dishonourable Sir Booby Owl — the Air Marshal of Birdland — was stopping over at Birdland Nursery for a cup of tea.

But all was not well at Birdland Nursery, as was obvious from even the most sneaky of glances at the "letters to the editor" column of the "Daily Warbler". For the 'angries' of Birdland (and they were very bad birds, indeed) had protested about the dangers of high-speed flight outside the Nursery and they now demanded that something be done!

Yet, it was much too nice a day to be angry. Led by Keefy Blackbird, who had read all the most beautiful stories that could be smuggled from across the border — the youngsters surged forward amongst a flurry of feathers to greet their bushy-eyed hero, by sweetly waving banners of protest. Never before had a feathered Notary received such a welcome. But then, after all it was the only right and proper thing that one could do, and he was a Very Important Bird.

Each young bird's breast seemed to be bursting with pride — or something, when suddenly they all exploded into spontaneous song and the calamity was avoided. Yes, indeed, it certainly stirred one's blood, but can you guess what lullaby they sang? — why, of course — "For He Has Jolly Good Feathers" — the traditional party song.

But where had all those angry young birds flown to? Down to the Cock Tavern did someone say? Yes, indeed, that seemed to be true. It looked as if the good birds wouldn't have any more trouble — you see for all their badness the bad birds aren't very clever.

Anyway, today the good birds seem to be more than making up for the bad birds — they were doing all sorts of exciting things for Sir Booby — they were even giving him a box of worms. After all, that's what people always did at parties — and people had always done so in the past — besides, wasn't there a rule which said: "THOU SHALT GIVE ONE BOX OF WORMS TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR BOOBY OWL"? Yes, of course, there must be or what would they be doing this for now?

And so on this perfectly splendid afternoon, Sir Booby took the box of worms and we are told that later on he ate every one! Yes, indeed he did, and his belly grew bigger and bigger for ever and ever and that is why to this day the owl has such a big belly. Now wasn't that a nice story?

BANG GOES PATTERSON'S STORY

THERE is nothing like setting things straight when it comes to national yarns and stories; so I will wise you about "Clancy of the Overflow".

Bango Patterson got his information second-hand. He heard it wrong. He was actually told about "Clancy of the UNDERTOW", who was the greatest surfer in the history of aquatic records.

Clancy was born up near Townsville and his memory is held sacred in those parts. He had no schooling and would spend his waking hours in the surf, riding the long, cool breakers from way out. Bound to and man (employed) he never was, and at the age of twenty-two he went south to lend his soul to Bondi.

He found the southern swell little better than a wet filter tip and it was then he went inland, to the swiftly-flowing Snowy River, to shoot the rapids and to ride the storm in. For a few weeks he was happy, but he was

hooked, and he would wander morosely along the sands waiting for another fifty-mile shoot.

However, he was saved. A Yank told him of the great Hapaian tidal waves, born of volcanoes, which climb fifty feet high for two hundred miles. So he went.

Now Clancy, since he used always to surf at the most dangerous beaches, was accustomed to just nipping into the nearest bit of scrub to change and so, a few minutes before what was to be his last swim, he slipped into the scenery. He was halfway through when he heard a giggle. Spinning round he saw a native in her native swimsuit.

From then on he never surfed again. Why? Because he found it twice as dangerous and five times as rough to ride with her.

Quite sensibly, he never came back to Australia. . . .

M. HARRINGTON

FLAMES PURIFY THE FUGITIVE KIND

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS is regarded by some critics as the best playwright at present writing in English. What even his fiercest detractors cannot deny is his craftsmanship.

The cynical critic admits his craftsmanship not so much as a dramatist, but rather as a judicious mixer of the sensational and the popularly horrible into a sure box-office attraction, at least for a certain type of audience.

A feature of Tennessee Williams' plays is the laying bare of overgrown psychoses and neuroses nurtured by the hot-house atmosphere of the Southern States of the U.S.A. — the Deep South. "Orpheus Descending" gives another strong blend of powerful characterisations in the same setting. Perhaps the only satisfactory classification of "Orpheus Descending" is that it is a serious play. Tragedy is too weighty a term for it. Admittedly there is a sense of waste which merges into dramatic irony, as the audience realises at once the way out of the tragic climax, and yet that there is only one inevitable and somehow fitting end to the play. But this is not really tragic waste — we feel neither that "there but for the grace of God . . ." nor that we have witnessed the fall of a high-souled character though a tragic flaw.

Tennessee Williams has a good ear for speech rhythms, which he overlays with a rhetorical cast to render the dialogue dramatically more effective. There are overtones of Faulkner's Gavin Stevens, and of the statement and response of a revival meeting in the conversations of the female chorus, particularly Dolly and Beulah.

The Orpheus legend is a thread through the play, but it has been freely adapted and it would be too great a headache to attempt to trace all the parallels. Valentine Xavier (Orpheus) is a wandering entertainer who plays a guitar which has the power to tame the wild beast (the Sheriff, Dog and Pee-wee) or to charm a woman (Lady and Carol). He is employed by Lady Torrance (a combination of Eurydice and Persephone), who is managing the store owned by her husband, Jabe. The latter, dying of cancer, remains in the upstairs bedroom and personifies the brooding malevolence of the God of the Underworld.

In Tennessee Williams' version of the legend, Orpheus charms Eurydice, rather than Persephone, out of the personal hell in which she has lived for fifteen years. In this hell burn the flames which caused the death of her father and the desertion of her lover. At the end of the play, Orpheus' "turning back" — his refusal, on learning that Lady is pregnant, to make good his escape — causes them both to be killed. The flames recur in the macabre



Critic John Woodrow writes on Williams and Repertory

instrument of Val's death — a blowtorch.

Embrodering this main theme is a female chorus of the women of the town, the men (spirits of evil) who are their husbands, and a mysterious figure in the Underworld, Carol Cutrere, a young member of the South's decadent aristocracy. In Tennessee Williams' hands the latter is developed into a full dramatic figure in her own right, and in consequence has only a tenuous connection with the legend. Her brother David is the lover who deserted Lady fifteen years before.

It was a bold decision by Repertory to present this play so soon after a very good film version — which appeared under the title of "The Fugitive Kind". Nevertheless, the overall level of performance survived this testing comparison being, if not superior, at least not very inferior to the celluloid presentation.

Acting honours went to Joyce Glynn in the very demanding role of Lady — a woman emotionally dead, whom contact with Val causes to be reborn and given a reason for living.

Only in the moment of high climax was her performance below the level of the rest — she could have stressed her triumphant pleasure upon discovering that she was again pregnant more strongly than she did. That most was not made of the powerful climax may have been due to producer Algis Butavicius — one has no way of telling — but the end of the play was muted to a degree sufficient to lose some of its genuine dramatic power.

Neil McPherson gave a well-sustained performance of high quality in the not so demanding role of Val. Geraldine Tailon made a creditable attempt to measure up to the complexity in the character of Carol. I have said above that Tennessee Williams has developed this character so that it is, in a way, out of key with the rest of the play, and it is in consequence very difficult for an actress to give a convincing performance in it.

Among the other players, Frank Boddy as Jabe, Bob Hunter as the Sheriff and Frances Rose as his wife, gave good performances. The women of the town gave the impression that

they would have been happier playing Australian gossip-mongers. In the language of the Deep South, and bearing the burden of a clumsy exposition of the background of the play, their lines seemed to overawe them. As a result, the performances were somewhat awkward.

As I have said, the production was for the most part a successful one, except at the climax of the play. Now perhaps with a limited cast it was not possible to increase the pace of the play at the climax, but the producer could have compensated for this by having the volume of noise increased for example. Lady could have shouted her triumph with more exultant passion and Val's death screams could have been both longer and louder. Had this been done, the succeeding speeches from Carol and finally the Sheriff would have done their job of tapering off from these moments of stark emotion. As it was in this production they appeared merely to jerk the play to a shuddering halt.

The set was simple and functional, and the lighting, although perhaps unobtrusive (the device of fading with a spot on the last speaker was over-used) was adequate. Costuming was remarkably apt. Make-up was fair — both Val and Carol should have looked older than they did. Evocative background music was provided by Matt Ward's guitar.

Wherever Tennessee Williams is placed in the register of playwright, there is no doubt that at his best he can provide a really meaty theatrical offering. There is plenty in "Orpheus Descending" for both the intelligent audience and cast. Repertory made a very good attempt at surmounting its difficult complexity and in so doing provided a rewarding evening's entertainment.

INGMAR BERGMAN RIVALS ALAN WALKER IN SYDNEY CINEMA

YES, Neil, the Ortolan were delightful and the Chambertin perfect. Poor Sydney, I know, cannot boast anything comparable to the assault of some 90,000 acolytes of the Adelaide Muses, but we do have a few things stirring on the Kultural Front.

At the "Gala" theatre, where people go to see and be obscene, Ingmar Bergman's film "The Seventh Seal" is searing its sombre way into people's imaginations. The title is taken from the Book of Revelations, in which the Lamb opens the Seventh Seal, thus bringing about the Day of Judgment. The action on what might be

A Letter from Sydney, by Donne Anderson

this day is set in mediaeval Sweden — Bergman has a passion for Mediaevalism — which is under a plague; the Black Plague, no doubt. As Fear gains power over the ignorant people, so do the forces of Blindness and Terror! that is, the Church. Through this injured and injuring culture rides a Knight (a Believer, who craves Knowledge, not Faith), his Squire (an atheist existentialist), and with them a troubadour family (naturalness, humility — Joseph, Mary, and Son). These pilgrims see, are revolted by, and refuse to accept, the blind self-recrimination with which the plague-ridden people lacerate themselves and which the established Church encourages and re-

quires. (One of these scenes of self-recrimination, with the agonised eroticism of its cross-carrying, its flagellation, and its Deis Irae chanted in the background, is great theatre.) The urgency and dramatic power of the film is heightened by the Knight's being waylaid by Death (looking like Kenneth Slessor in a monk's hassock) with whom he must play a game of chess which he knows he cannot win. The Knight plays the game in order to win time in which to perform one significant action, something which he failed to do in the ten years of crusading from which he has just returned. Only by such an action does he feel that

he can justify his earthly existence — and he doesn't KNOW whether there is any other. And he does perform such an action — he saves the family of troubadours by distracting Death's attention during a most serious chess-moment.

The Knight, his wife, his Squire, and others are taken by Death; but Bergman does not leave us with this non-affirmative conclusion. Though Life is blind and Faith apparently the only way out of man's fate; though there is no Knowledge and Death does seal up all in rest, there is no satisfaction to be gained from the knowledge that —

ALISTAIR DAVIDSON IN ROME 'Bella Figura' is all you need to know

THE Via Barberini is brassy and noisy at five o'clock. The crowds "Facendo una passegata" are well dressed and their voices are empty and affected.

Life is boredom. The gleaming Lancias and Fiats race up the hill towards the Tritons and that most cosmopolitan of bars, Doney's.

There immaculately dressed young Italians gaze through sunglasses avidly at the bland foreign women's sexual assets with subtle evocativeness.

But the street is a false front — twenty yards behind it are the walls of the Campidoglio and within those walls are sweat-shops — seamstresses work there — seventeen hours a day. Many are deformed; they speak differently. For them life is work. Work is a dusty low ceilinged room with only naked bulbs to make ridiculous shadows on the dripping walls.

The beautiful window displays on the Barberini put on a good face to the outside world. This is the bella figura which so destroys the standards of the many poverty-stricken workers behind the gay Rome of the visitor and the more well-to-do.

Antonio is seventeen — he lives in the walls of the Campidoglio — he left school as soon as he could to "earn a little you know" so far una bella figura. He is not too intelligent but he has seven suits each worthy forty thousand. His earnings with tips are thirty thousand a month and for this he works between 8 a.m. and midnight. Una bella vita — no? On his evenings off he does not go to the flea house down the road — he puts on his best suit and goes to an expensive cinema di tusso. Sometimes he accosts foreign women at the Fontana (di Trevi). Of course, they don't understand his importunings but he has something to boast about. As yet he is too young to go to the casino — besides, foreign women are different, aren't they?

"Could you teach me English, Alistair? I can't pay you, of course. But I can teach you Italian."

Isn't Rome lovely? Those yellows and oranges at sunset. You could see it miles away when the train came in. I can count thirty churches from my balcony. Swallows everywhere. The local songs are known as stornelli. They go up and down. The guide told me. What do you think

that awful boy was saying at the Three Coins in the Fountain place? Aren't the Italians lovely? Wouldn't you love to live here? Except those labourers — plain rude they were with their stares and mumbblings.

Alix, tonight I met two English girls. I am going to take them out tomorrow. I'll get time off. We'll go to the sea. You know there is a place at Bliu which costs 2,000 lira. We'll go there! Bella figura.

Claudio comes from Trastevere. He is a "real Roman". He speaks Romanario. He is a Communist. Perhaps he is even a party member. His brother was a Fascist and still keeps his old uniform at home and beats up Jews in Trastevere. Mussolini was good for the workers at first, but he is finished. Claudio comes to the Via in Ancione every day to lay down new sewers. You know the sewers are always breaking there. It is all those American cars which should stay on the Barberini. Someday one of them will get turned over just you wait. He works bloody hard and hates Americans and foreigners.

Take those turisti today with that stupid little Antonio, tagging along behind trying to prove his manhood. Don't we all! Except the foreign froscicetti — didn't need to lock up the women when the British army came in 1943. That boy needs a thrashing. Too many like him. Those people trampling all over the place as if we weren't trying to work. We don't go home until we've finished. It's easy for them. What do they know about living? Like those bloody students in '56 — took the day off. They do it every year for a lark. (I'd like to see how long they'd last if they had to work). They were agitating about Hungary. The whole of the Piazza Vittorio was filled. They say 600 thousand. Perhaps. Yelling "Ungheria! Ungheria!" "A bassi i Communisti!" Coming up the Barberini yelling. The little queens. But they didn't come down the street when they saw us with our spades, did they? (Claudio called them a few names. He fascinated them). Come on you bastards and I'll break your heads with this spade. You don't know what it is all about. Bella Figura is all you know.

And death shall have no dominion." Though individual lives end, the Life Process goes on; at the end of the film the Trinity of troubadours lives on; they walk into a clear, fresh dawn, living, while Death leads the others in his dance over the crest of a hill.

Bergman presents his myth in those nuances of black, white and grey that only he and his genius of a cameraman can devise. The Knight and Death playing chess on a beach, the erotic flagellation scene, the simplicity of the Knight and the troubadours eating together; all these, each an essential part of the film's sequence of events, are triumphs as visual images. Bergman is, as always, the master of the sombre image at the one (Continued on page 4)

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RUGBY WILL SWING THIS SEASON

THE 1962 Rugby season opened on Saturday, March 17, with a first match against Goulburn. Between 30 and 40 University players took part.

The match was not particularly encouraging from University's point of view. Although the players were fairly even, the home side did not play impressively, especially in the forwards who were consistently beaten for possession in the scrums and rucks.

Most of the good work came from the newcomers. Forestry's Kiwi winger John Marriot was always alert and looked dangerous whenever the ball came his way. Dave Andean worked hard and his condition seemed to hold out much better than that of some of the recognised footballers. Keith Chandler gave his usual neat display and his recent marriage does not seem to have slowed him down.

The club's A.G.M. was held on March 8 in the Childers

Street Common Room, with a large number of prospective players in attendance. There were some minor changes to the constitution to bring it into line with the new Sports Union constitution which came into force last year, but no major contentious issue was raised.

New committee

There was a big change in the governing committee of the club. Hec Mildrew succeeded the Principal of the Forestry School, Kel McGrath, as President, Gwilym Davies became Secretary in place of Ian MacDougal. In both cases the retiring officers declined to stand again and the new members were elected unopposed. Ian did a wonderful job last year but Gwilym is an able successor. The committee of four is Ron Murray, Chris Higgins, Roger

Clement and Dr. L. J. Hunie.

University will field four sides this year, which will be a very big one for the club. In approximately six weeks time the A.C.T. side for Country Week will be selected. The touring All Blacks side will open its Australian programme at Canberra on May 24, and University has been invited to play a curtain-raiser to the game against R.M.C.I. Also in May is the big event of the year — Intervarsity. The venue this year is Armidale. The club hopes to send a perfectly conditioned side this year and several members of the team have already begun pre-season training at the Civic.

Looking at the season ahead it seems that Uni. will have to work hard this year. The club will depend largely on new recruits. Six of last year's first-grade pack have

disappeared from the scene. The three Forestry forwards, Wilks, Wiley and Rieley are missing. Jack Rieley's departure especially will be keenly felt. He was Uni's outstanding forward last year and will be remembered for his powerful, bone-crushing lock-forward displays.

A.C.T. representative hooker is in New Zealand but fortunately the club has a very capable replacement in Roger Clement, last year's State Under-18 hooker. Tim Clarke has transferred to Albury and Bruce Kent has subsided into the chair of a History Lecturer. Both these players represented the A.C.T., Bruce being captain of the side two years ago.

Jim Kierath will be another University could-have-been. Although he began playing mid-way through last season he quickly forced his way into first grade and would have been one of the club's outstanding players this year, had he stayed around.

Star player

In 1962 we will be looking to John Craig, Jim Harding, Tony Whitlam and other young players to build the foundation of a pack which will provide a starting point for backline movement. Craig has been the star player amongst the A.C.T.'s Under-18's for the past two years, and undoubtedly will be one of Uni's big guns in the coming season. Harding has plenty of ability but needs to put on weight. Whitlam is rough and rugged and it is hoped that he will get himself into condition.

It is hard to make any predictions about the Reserve and Third Grade sides because the composition of these teams will be slightly different from last year, but with Alec Mildren and Bruce Kent coaching, there should be no lack of team spirit.

The last point is spectator support. This applied to all four grades. There is nothing so disheartening as playing before an empty sideline, and the club hopes that all non-playing supporters will be able to spare at least a few Saturdays during the year to come and give a bit of encouragement from the sideline.

Anyone who has played before a big crowd will know what a difference it makes to keenness, enthusiasm and performance, and it is no overstatement to say that sideline barrackers could play a major role in determining whether the club this year is going to make the top or flop miserably.

SQUASH RACQUETS CLUB

The year 1961 proved to be a very successful year for the A.N.U. Squash Racquets Club.

Summer Comp. C grade minor and major premiers, Winter Comp. B grade minor and major premiers; D grade semi-finalists; E grade grand-finalists.

The club has entered three teams in the 1962 Summer Comp. and these have been graded C, E, F. All teams are doing well at present and are tipped to be finalists. This competition finishes in April and will be followed by the Winter Comp. The club hopes to field teams in all grades and so will be able to cater for everyone, including YOU. Each team plays one night per week for about fourteen weeks. Cost is 4/- a match for the court plus 5/- per year (club fee to pay for registrations and entry fees). Further information can be obtained from —

Barry O'Grady (Clm. Dept. and Bruce Hall),
John Hodgkin (Chem. Dept. and Uni. House),
Cliff Hawkins (Med. School Ext. 2688).
The club is also interested in forming a female team to enter in the Women's Winter Comp. If any girl is keen to play, would she contact one of the above club members?

S.R.C. plots course for this fiscal

THE first S.R.C. meeting this term was held on Sunday at 2.30. It was characterised by numerous absences, two of which were due to Mr. Funnel and Mr. Roberts leaving the University for Teachers' College.

The vacant positions were not filled. Despite the paucity of numbers a considerable amount of business was conducted.

The most important programmes decided on were:

WORONI: Woroni will produce ten issues this year.

Although a vote of £500 was proposed, this was not proceeded on. The editor will, however, be limited to a sum in the vicinity of £500.

REVUE: Nominations will be called for the Revue Committee. The Revue will be held for five nights, Friday and Saturday and then Thursday, Friday and Saturday, on the two weeks preceding the last week of term.

COMMENCEMENT BALL: It was suggested by the Treasurer, Mr. Brewster, that this be called the Graduation Hall, but fears that the people might consider that we were emulating another institution of higher

learning at Dunroon put paid to this suggestion. The Commencement Ball will be held on April 13.

SQUASH COURTS: The new Union building may have squash courts attached. The administration is being approached about the feasibility of this. The Sports Union will have to contribute.

The Treasurer's Report was not read.

Various committee members were appointed to N.U.A.U.S., Talks Committee and Union Users Committee.

Sundry other minor business was conducted.

The meeting closed at 4.15.

"INGMAR BERGMAN"

(Continued from page 3) extreme; and, at the other, of that mad, Balzacian drollery which he exploited in "Smiles of a Summer Night."

The film, then, is visually most satisfying. Each of us will find the idea-content more or less acceptable; this is, however, of minor importance, for it is the appropriateness of Bergman's form to his content and the undoubted excellence of his technique that render the film the thrilling success, it is.

FROM Bergman to Buildings. The ever-increasing demand for more office space in Sydney — staff can't get into its old offices because they are filled up with red tape and Bushell's tea packets — means that the architect must keep utility in mind and dispense with any adornments or deviations from the straight-line norm that might be aesthetically gratifying; that is, pleasing to the eye. Hence the mania for Matchbox Mansions. Huge, many-storeyed buildings jut up; all glass, aluminium, chrome and

laminex. No curves — except those attached to the damsels who work there. So we get a new concept of architectural beauty, based on the omnipresence of the straight line. Curves are out. The result? Unimaginable, unimaginative, neo-World War II clock-house sterility.

Yet, thankfully, someone has learned to get away from the Cult of the Curveless. The new A.M.P. (Any Mad Parties?) Building, which is 17,500 storeys high at Circular Quay has a curved front which gives it a symmetry and pleasantness to the eye which is so unusual in the modern building section of Sydney as to be refreshing. And just around the corner from this building our Opera House is still going up. It is going to have its roofs shaped to represent the sails of yachts on Sydney Harbour; this I have been told by that well-known architect, Frank Lloyd Pearl. No straight lines there! A victory for the Pals of the Parabola.

Now for a vodka and ice. More next time.
DONNE ANDERSON.

TRAINEE TEACHERS ACTIVE

TRAINEE teachers are once again on the march, and for good reason. Allowances are meagre, but Canberra students fare worse than those elsewhere because of several local factors.

The most important of these are, firstly, the high cost of accommodation at Lennox, and more particularly at Bruce Hall, and the pernicious demand for payment in advance at the latter establishment. This creates a severe strain for many trainee teachers, who receive their first instalment at the end of March.

Secondly, the cost of living is significantly higher in Canberra than it is in the metropolitan area.

And thirdly, transport to and from home during vacations is more of a problem to those living outside of Canberra than it is to most of those at other training centres.

To forward the interests of those concerned in these important matters, a Trainee Teachers' Association (T.T.A.) was formed on Thursday, March 22, at a meeting of about 40 students. The committee elected were: President, B. Smith; Secretary, S. Shumack; Treasurer, J. Wrightson; other members, T. Farrell and K. Campbell.

The Association hopes to co-ordinate its efforts with those of all other T.A.A.'s in N.S.W. A large conference, and a gigantic petition to the N.S.W. Parliament are planned for May to draw attention to the inadequate provisions for trainee teachers.

So watch for the details of further planning, and help yourselves by helping the T.T.A.

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(Continued from page 3) be pointed out that volunteers to press the little red button will be treated strictly in order of precedence.

be pointed out that volunteers to press the little red button will be treated strictly in order of precedence.

STAFF

The following people have helped produce this edition of "Woroni" —
Editor: Neil McPherson.
Sub-Editor: Madeleine Penman.

Typing: Bev Male.
Cartoon: Barbara Wilson.
Technical Staff: Hugh Mabbett, Tony Godfrey-Smith, Michael Harrington, Rainer Baethke.
Advertising: Michael Harrington.
Literary Editor: Bob Smith.

Donald Brewster's
Union Review

We must
save for
union

NEW students to the A.N.U. who have had experience with other Universities will find that one of the most important things which is missing at the A.N.U. is a Students' Union Building.

However, a site on the corner of University Avenue and Ellery Circuit has been set aside and money is available to build the first stage of the A.N.U. Union.

It is very hard to see out the purpose of a Student Union. It must be more than a collection of coffee shops, cafes, common rooms, meeting rooms, music rooms, and games rooms. While it needs to contain these, any Union, if it is to fulfil its purpose, must be the centre of student life; providing not only for the daily needs of students but also it must be a place where students can mix with other students and live the corporate life which is necessary in a University.

We are very fortunate in that a lot of consideration is being given to the Union building by the Authorities and they are aware of the importance of the Union.

All the money for our Union is being provided without any effort on the part of students, a thing which is unknown in the older Universities in Australia.

SQUASH COURTS

The S.R.C. and the Sports Council, however, should try to aim to provide extra facilities for the Union. The argument that anything we provide the Government will not do, does not apply in this case because the Government has already made the allocation.

Squash courts are one of the things which we could furnish. It will be relatively cheap to build squash courts at the back of the Union due to the fact that the kitchens require a high roof and this can be extended.

The problem is that the Sports Council and the S.R.C. will have to put money in trust. This should be possible if the people who serve on these committees are far-sighted enough. If the whole of the Sports Council's budget is spent on intervarsity and local expenses, then it will not be possible to provide the courts.

OTHER AMENITIES

The Students' Association may also wish to provide money for other extra items of furniture, and if, so, money will have to be set aside for this purpose.

It is up to you. If you go to the general meetings of the Sports Council and the Students' Association you can see that this will be done.

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